

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) Process for removing contaminants from contaminated soil with the aid of a stripping gas and with a biologically active layer being present in or on the soil, which process comprises the following steps:

- a) creating in the soil a medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil,
- b) injecting the stripping gas in the soil at the depth of and/or beneath the contaminants,
- c) volatilising the contaminants with the stripping gas,

whereupon the stripping gas with the contaminants largely flows to the biologically active layer via the medium whose resistance is lower than that of the surrounding soil.

2. (original) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil is created between an area to be remediated and a biologically active layer not directly bordering thereon.

3. (currently amended) Process according to ~~either of claims 1-2~~ claim 1, characterized in that the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil is created by targeted drying of certain areas in the soil.

4. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the stripping gas is injected at a pressure of at least 1.3 bar.

5. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the stripping gas is injected at a pressure of between 2 and 8 bar.

6. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the

surrounding soil is created by installing at least one hollow pipe between the biologically active layer and the contaminated soil.

7. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ claim 1, characterized in that the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil consists of a space which may or may not be filled with a material that presents a lower resistance to the stripping gas than the surrounding soil.

8. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 1-7~~ claim 1, characterized in that the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil comprises biologically active material and/or activated carbon.